

REMARKS

1. The Office Action has objected to Claim 19 as reciting limitations of a device which is not claimed in Claim 17. In view of the cancellation of Claim 19 from the application, Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

2. The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 3 - 5 and 10 - 13 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,536,166 (Alley). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant would direct the Examiner's attention to the amendment of independent Claims 1 and 10 above to incorporate the limitations of dependent Claim 20, which was indicated in the Office Action as containing allowable subject matter.

In view of the amendments made above to incorporate the limitations of Claim 20, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

3. The Office Action rejected Claims 17 and 19 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 2,320,776 (Gorton). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant would direct the Examiner's attention to the amendment of independent Claim 17 above to incorporate the limitations of dependent Claim 20, which depends therefrom and was indicated in the Office Action as containing allowable subject matter. Dependent Claim 19 has been canceled from the application.

In view of the amendments made above, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

4. The Office Action rejected Claims 1 - 8 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 1,877,781 (Akerlund). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant would direct the Examiner's attention to the amendment of independent Claim 1 above to incorporate the limitations of dependent Claim 20, which was indicated in the Office Action as containing allowable subject matter.

In view of the amendments made above, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

5. The Office Action has rejected Claim 2 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Alley in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,765,902 (Love). The Office Action states that Love discloses a clamping surface with serrations and that it would be obvious to modify the Alley invention by adding serrations as taught by Love. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, Claim 1 has been amended to add the limitations of dependent Claim 20, which was deemed to contain allowable subject matter. The limitations of dependent Claim 2 provide claims of varying scope. Applicant respectfully requests that Claim 2 be passed to allowance with Claim 1 from which it depends.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

6. The Office Action has rejected Claims 7 - 9, 14 - 16 and 25 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Alley in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,453,623 (Nelson). The Office Action states that Nelson discloses a snow stop and mount. The Office Action concludes that it would be obvious to modify the Alley invention by adding a receptacle as taught by Nelson. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to add the limitations of dependent Claim 20, which was deemed to contain allowable subject matter. The limitations of dependent Claims 7 - 9 and 14 - 16 provide claims of varying scope. Claim 25 has been canceled from the application. Applicant respectfully requests that Claims 7 - 9 and 14 - 16 be passed to allowance with Claims 1 and 10 from which they respectively depend.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

7. The Office Action has objected to Claims 20 - 23 as being dependent on a rejected base claim. These claims were deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response thereto, Applicant has incorporated the limitations of Claim 20 into independent Claim 17. Claim 21 has been amended to depend from Claim 17 with Claim 20 being canceled from the application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 20 has been placed into independent form.

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

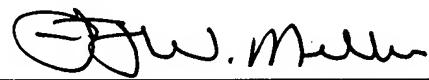
8. Applicant appreciate the continued allowance of Claims 28 - 31 expressed in the Final Office Action and respectfully request that these claims be passed to allowance with the other claims remaining in this application.

9. In summary, Claims 1, 10, 14, 17 and 21 have been amended, Claims 12, 13, 19 and 20 have been canceled, and Claims 1 - 11, 14 - 17, 21- 23 and 28 - 31 remain in the application. Applicant believes that the claims are allowable based on the foregoing amendments. Applicant respectfully requests that all rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn and that all claims remaining in this case be allowed.

Pursuant to currently recommended Patent Office practice, the Examiner is expressly authorized to call the undersigned attorney if in his judgment disposition of this application could be expedited or if he considers the case ready for final disposition by other than allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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